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NO. 6943 P. 3

Appln. No. 10/529.336  
Amendment dated August 4, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2006

~~Selected Drawing Fig. 1~~

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Appln. No. 10/529,336  
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Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2006REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The May 5, 2006 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

SPECIFICATION

In the Office Action the Examiner objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure because the Abstract of the Disclosure includes reference numerals. In response, the Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to eliminate the reference numerals in accordance with the Examiner's request. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.72(a), a new Abstract is submitted herewith on a separate sheet. In view of the amendment of the Abstract of the Disclosure, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure are respectfully requested.

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#### CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action claim 12 is objected to because of an informality. In response, claim 12 is cancelled, thereby rendering the objection moot.

#### PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 10-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0142655 (Nimura et al.).

In response, claims 11 and 12 are cancelled and limitations from claims 11 and 12 are incorporated into claim 10 in a sincere effort to place claim 10 in form for allowance.

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to an electrical connector wherein a front holder has formed therein a plurality of arm operating holes through each of which a jig for operating locking arms is to be inserted. The front holder is moveable with respect to a front portion of the housing in a direction along an axial line between the terminal inserting holes and the arm operating holes corresponding to a first position and a second position. In the first position of the front holder, the plurality of locking arms are pushed toward connecting terminals by the plurality of arm pushing portions and the plurality of terminal inserting holes are aligned with the plurality of

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connecting terminals such that an electrical connection between the connecting terminals and cooperating electrical terminals is attached by engaging a cooperating housing. In the second position of the front holder, the front holder is temporarily engaged with the housing. The plurality of terminal inserting holes are shifted out of the axial lines of the connecting terminals installed within the housing. The plurality of arm operating holes are aligned with the plurality of locking arms and the plurality of arm pushing portions are removed from the plurality of locking arms such that a locking operation of a locking arm is released by inserting the jig into an arm operating hole and a connecting terminal can be removed from a terminal accommodating hole.

U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0142655 (Nimura et al.) is directed to a connector having a housing (30) with a retainer (50) that is moveable normal to the longitudinal direction of female terminal fittings (20) along the front of a terminal accommodating portion (31) between a partial locking position where the insertion and withdrawal of female terminal fittings (20) are permitted and a full locking position where the female terminal fittings (20) are locked.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the front holder is moveable with respect to a front portion of the housing in a

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direction along an axial line between the terminal inserting holes and the arm operating holes corresponding to a first position and a second position, and to recite that in the second position of the front holder the front holder is temporarily engaged with the housing.

Nimura et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations now set forth in claim 10.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 10 and Nimura et al. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over Nimura et al., even when taken in combination with any of the cited references.

Claims 13-15 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 10 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 10 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 13-15.

#### ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged and appreciated. Claim 14 is not rewritten in

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independent form at this time in view of the asserted allowability of claim 10. However, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to place claim 14 in independent form if claim 10 is ultimately held not to be allowable over the prior art of record.

\* \* \* \* \*

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure